

DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

MAY 31 1963

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Dr. JOSHUA LEDERBERG,
Dept of Genetics, School of Medicine,
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California.

28/5/63

1/26/63
sent Back to Dr. Lederberg
"Archives of Biochemistry"
& Nature 1963/4/5/59

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

I have read with considerable interest your recent article in Nature in relation to the Future of Man. This article has stimulated me to write concerning a 'half baked' idea I have had and to ask for your comments.

Briefly it consists of a human-algal symbiosis. Analogous situations can be found in the animal kingdom, Hydra, sponges, protozoa. The technological problems of such a relationship are enormous but the major initial consideration is whether a large enough algal population could be established to produce any quantitative benefits.

The advantages on paper of such a relationship are attractive, the algae use metabolic CO_2 & liberate O_2 & carbohydrate providing a system immediately applicable say in long

D. CLARK-WALKER

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term space travel. The problems on the other hand loom large, immunochemistry, parasitism toxicology. It could also prove social dynamite in relation to pigmented people with a shielding melanophore layer.

I have been purposely brief in the above outline in order not to bother you with the trivia of what may well be my stupidity.

at present I am studying for a D. Phil degree in the Dept of Biochemistry Oxford.

Yours sincerely
Desmond Clark-Walker.